

# GM507

Measure Title:	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG NISHIMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.
Report Title:	Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine
Current Referral:	CPH

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Friday, April 5, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 507, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG NISHIMOTO,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kedin Kleinhans, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Craig Nishimoto, D.V.M.'s appointment to the Board.

Dr. Nishimoto is being appointed to the Board as a licensee member for the County of Kauai. He has been licensed as a veterinarian since August 14, 1984, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. Dr. Nishimoto was appointed to the Board on an interim basis on June 19, 2018, attended his first Board meeting on July 18, 2018, and has attended all of the three meetings conducted since his appointment.

Dr. Nishimoto has a long history of public service, having formerly served on the Board from 1997 to 2001. He has practiced veterinary medicine since June 1989 and is currently the owner of Paradise Animal Clinic in Kalaheo. The Board believes that Dr. Nishimoto's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony in support of Dr. Craig Nishimoto "GM507" to the Board of Veterinary Medicine

I have known Dr. Nishimoto for well over 30 years.

First as a fine veterinarian, then as a fellow Rotarian and last but certainly not least as a trusted friend.

At every one of these levels I have come to appreciate his calm and caring demeanor, his careful and well thought out decision making process as well as his unwavering "Service above Self".

I cannot think of an individual better qualified to serve on a State Board than Dr. Nishimoto and I am convinced that any group of people working alongside him will quickly see the same fine qualities the I continue to in Dr Nishimoto.

I wish him continued Success and Satisfaction in his endeavors.

Sincerely,

Chris Steuri  
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Testimony for GM507  
Letter of support for Craig Nishimoto, DVM  
Nomination for the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been asked to write a letter of support on behalf of Craig Nishimoto, DVM, as he is being considered for the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine.

We have known Dr. Nishimoto for over 15 years as our primary veterinarian. We consider Dr. Nishimoto to be highly knowledgeable in the scientific basis for veterinary practice. He has always managed a very up-to-date clinic as he serves our community on Kauai; many families travel some distance to have him care for their animals because of his expertise. Dr. Nishimoto has a particular expertise in the treatment of cancers. He has managed the care of all of our dogs, some with very rare canine cancers, providing them active treatment such as chemotherapy and pain management which resulted in adding months and quality of life to their remaining time with us. On one occasion he graciously opened his clinic to an outside specialist from Oahu who surgically removed a rare form of rib cancer. The procedure involved not only the use of his surgical space for 6-7 hours but he also made available his staff to assist in the very complex procedure. We believe Dr. Nishimoto stays current with all of the latest research, studies and treatment options available for animals today. An example is specific to our two Golden Retrievers. They have both been diagnosed with Nutritional Deficiency Dilated Cardiomyopathy (ND DCM) as a result of low Taurine blood levels associated with BEG diets (Boutique, Exotic, Grain Free). Dr. Nishimoto has collaborated with Joshua Stern, DVM, who is the Director of Veterinary Cardiology at UC Davis in California. As a result, both our dogs have had ongoing monitoring and treatment in accordance with the latest recommendations established by Dr. Stern and his research team. This includes regular monitoring of blood Taurine and proBNP levels along with echocardiograms performed by veterinary cardiologists in Hawaii upon referral by Dr. Nishimoto. He continues to collaborate with them as well. In summary, we believe Dr. Nishimoto would be an excellent choice to participate in drafting pertinent and updated licensing exam questions for DVM candidates.

Dr. Nishimoto and his staff at Paradise Animal Clinic have maintained a high reputation for ethical treatment of their patients. He and his staff are consistently professional, yet still personable, in their interactions with families and other businesses in the community. He has served as a role model and mentor to a young adult who aspires to a career in veterinary medicine. Our understanding is she has done exceptionally well in her studies at a mainland veterinary school and is now in her senior year; she is reportedly highly respected by staff and peers. We really believe Dr. Nishimoto impacted this individual early in her life, such that, his love for what he does clearly influenced her career choice of veterinary medicine. We are confident that Dr. Nishimoto has the character, integrity and experience to weigh the facts and render a fair ruling in cases of professional misconduct.

Dr. Nishimoto and his staff have served the Kalaheo community for over 20 years. They have maintained a solid reputation as a practice serving the needs of families and their beloved animals. They regularly visit the local elementary school to teach children about proper care and treatment of pets. They actively support different groups on Kauai whose focus is on dog obedience and helping pets to be well trained and socialized animal companions so that they can be accepted in the community at large. We believe Dr. Nishimoto would be an excellent resource to advise and guide struggling practices in Hawaii to be more successful in serving the veterinary needs their respective communities.

Dr. Nishimoto is a man of great integrity and compassion; he has always been there for us when needed. We believe he would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Respectfully submitted,

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